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in addition to the gain in methods of systematic, orderly study, and in our own personal knowledge of this particular field."

The Worcester Society of Natural History. MRS. ELLA L. HORR, *Custodian*

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### OSCAR DANA ALLEN

Professor Oscar Dana Allen died at Ashford, Washington, on February 19, 1913. He was born at Hebron, Maine, on February 25, 1836. During the years 1876-1883 while professor of chemistry in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, he was an active student of bryology. At this time he was fortunately associated with Prof. D. C. Eaton and carried on correspondence with many eminent contemporary bryologists, among others Lesquereux, James, Austin, and Rau. During the greater part of this period Prof. Allen's son, Mr. J. A. Allen, was also interested in bryology, and much of the distributed material that has been accredited to the latter is really the product of their joint efforts. The extent of the field work done by these two workers may be appreciated from the fact that between them they were able to detect in Connecticut more than seventy-five species of liverworts and mosses which hitherto had not been recorded within the state. Of these, at least a dozen have never since been collected here, while two have been described as new species, viz.: *Thuidium Alleni* Aust. and *Fontinalis Allenii* Card. Outside of Connecticut their explorations extended into Maine, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, Cape Breton Island, and the Labrador Peninsula. Among the most noteworthy of Prof. Allen's discoveries was the only known American station for the minute *Brachydontium trichodes* (Weber f.) Bruch., in Tuckerman's Ravine, Mount Washington, New Hampshire. In addition, however, to being a keen observer, he was also a remarkably thorough and painstaking student of the bryophytes, as is attested by the critical notes which are appended to so many of his herbarium specimens. In 1884, on account of failing health, Prof. Allen retired from teaching and removed to California. In 1889 he took up a homestead in the upper valley of the Nisqually River, within the present limits of the Mount Rainier National Forest, Washington, and here he spent the remaining years of his life. While in California, and for some years after settling in Washington, he confined his attention mainly to the study of phanerogamous plants, and for some time he was employed by the Gray Herbarium to collect sets of plants from the Cascade Mountain region. About the year 1898, however, he once more became interested in the study of the bryophytes in connection with the preparation of the "Mosses of the Cascade Mountains, Washington," an exsiccata issued by Mr. J. A. Allen. This interest continued until shortly before his death. Various specimens collected by Prof. Allen have been distributed in the exsiccatae of Austin, Grout, and Holzinger. The moss herbarium accumulated by the Allens during their residence in New Haven, comprising some three thousand specimens, has recently been purchased by the New York Botanical Garden.

GEORGE E. NICHOLS.